DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE - Public Health Service

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CHECK LIST OF UNITED STATES MEDICAL IMPRINTS

In earlier issues of the NEWS (March, July 1957) the National Library of Medicine announced its plans to publish, in late 1960 or early 1961, a check list of early medical imprints issued from presses in the United States through the year 1820. It will include medical books, pamphlets, dissertations, and broadsides; it will not include serials, almanacs, annual reports, non-medical works by physicians, nor books on general chemistry and botany. The list will be indexed and will show locations of copies, when known.

By September between 1,500 and 1,600 entries had been assembled; these were duplicated and issued in the form of a preliminary checking edition to the libraries cooperating in the project and wishing to be represented in the forthcoming publication. Letters were sent to sixteen of the larger libraries known to have substantial holdings in early American medical imprints, inviting their assistance; the response was not only immediate but also enthusiastic. This is most encouraging to those at NLM who have long dreamed of seeing such a list carried through to publication.

Inquiries pertaining to the September preliminary issue or to the preparation of the final edition may be addressed to Robert B. Austin, Assistant Chief, Reference Division, National Library of Medicine, who is compiling the list for the Library.

NEW BUILDING

Two conferences on plans for the new library building were held with the architects in New York City in September. Representatives of the Public Buildings Service were present at these conferences to discuss equipment, furniture, decorative schemes, and similar details. The penultimate stage of the plans is due for submission to the Public Buildings Service in October.

CONTINUING MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS

The two large rooms at either end of the second floor corridor -- the Reading Room and the technical processes area -- continue to give evidence of their antiquity and unsound structure. One day recently, for a considerable time during a storm, rain appeared to fall within the Reading Room. Earlier, in the other quarter large chunks of plaster tumbled down from the ceiling, fortunately missing those who were working below; this phenomenon is attributed to oxidizing of reinforcement rods. It may be that the only reasonable remedy will be the construction of a protective false ceiling in this area.

EXHIBITS

The exhibit for September-November at the National Library of Medicine, entitled "Scientific Translations; Sources and Services," features the problems of the language barrier in the communication of science information and solutions attempted. Charts indicate the numbers and percentages of medical journals and articles published in various languages and a map presents the geographic origins of medical periodicals. Indexes to translations, abstracting journals, and cover-to-cover translations of Soviet journals are displayed. Emphasis is on translation sources, services, and programs in the United States, although there is a section on the technical aspects of translating scientific information. The exhibit was prepared by Miriam D. Hawkins of the Reference Division.

Another exhibit at NLM commemorates the first hundred years of the medical text Anatomy, Descriptive and Surgical by Henry Gray. First editions in England and in the United States are displayed, with critical reviews which appeared in English medical journals shortly after its publication in 1858. One contemporary review of the book accuses Gray of plagiarizing from Quain's Anatomy and predicts that the book will never have a second edition.

REPORT BY FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

During the routine examination of 19th century material on Nursing prior to recataloging, an anonymous report by Florence Nightingale was discovered, giving dramatic excitement to a dusty and usually prosaic chore. The report is entitled "Subsidiary Notes as to the Introduction of Female Nursing into Military Hospitals in Peace and in War. Presented by request to the Secretary of State for War," and was published in London by Harrison in 1858.

INTERN PROGRAM

The intern training program for 1958/59 was begun on September 2. Miss Maxine E. Kennedy is the only intern this year; several other members of the staff are participating in certain features of the program. Two of the librarians who received internships under this program last year have accepted positions in the National Library of Medicine.

SIXTEENTH CENTURY ACQUISITIONS

Several important additions to the collection of 16th century medical literature in the National Library of Medicine were made recently. Six volumes in the Library's set of Galen's works printed in Venice in 1541-45 at the Officina Farrea have been acquired. This edition, which is very difficult to obtain, is made up of eight sections, usually bound in ten volumes; the NLM now has eight of the volumes. Other items acquired:

Hippocrates. De aere, aquis, & locis, liber ... ab Adriano Alemano ... commentariis quatuor illustratus. Parisiis, Apud Aegidium Gorbinum, 1557.

Hippocrates. Aphorismi ... Graece et Latine, una cum Galeni commentariis Nicolao Leoniceno Vincentino interprete. Lugduni, Apud Gulielmum Rovillium, 1581.

Lemnius, Levinus. Occulta naturae miracula. Gandavi, Ex officina Gisleni Manilii, 1572.

Manfredi, Girolamo. De medicis et infirmis collectanea in ordinem centiloquii congesta. Nurembergae, Georg Wachter, 1530.

Moix, Joan Raphel. Libre de la peste. Barcelona, Jaume Cendrat, 1587.

Mondino dei Luzzi. Anathomia Mundini per Carpum castigata. Venetiis, In officina D. Bernardini, 1538.

(This is a miniature edition (10x7cm.) of Mondino's Anatomia edited by Berengario da Carpi. The Officina D. Bernardini (Bernardinus Stagninum de Tridino) specialized in publishing medical classics in a very small format. This is a rare edition, only two copies being noted by Putti in his bibliographical study of Berengario.)

Paracelsus. Libri V. De Vita longa, brevi, & sana ... opera et studio Gerardi Dornei commentariis illustrati. Francoforti, Christoff Rab, 1583.

Valles, Francisco de. Commentaria in libros Hippocratis De ratione victus in morbis acutis. Compluti, Apud Andream de Angulo, 1569.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, FISCAL YEAR 1958

During the year which ended June 30, 1958, the National Library of Medicine:

ACQUIRED	13,447	books
	75,028	serial pieces
	1,157	new serial titles
PURCHASED	469	old and rare items for the History of Medicine Division
CATALOGED	23,595	titles, of which 8,590 were recataloged works
WITHDREW	3,951	duplicate and out-of-scope items
BOUND	17,495	volumes, of which 4,603 were rebinds
PREPARED	12,199	main entries for the 1957 volume of the National Library of Medicine Catalog
ADDED	2,378	pictures and other items to the Art Collection
CIRCULATED	111,594	volumes
ANSWERED	8,205	reference questions, and compiled 334 bibliographies of some length
FILLED	59,946	interlibrary loan requests, of which 6,898 were filled with loan of original material
FILMED	2,145,045	pages in response to 64,421 orders, of which 53,048 were interlibrary loans
PRODUCED	1,182,341	pages of photoprint and
	233,730	paper cards
PUBLISHED	110,708	items in the Current List from 1,594 journal titles
SPENT	$1,508,204	for all operations, including new building program
EMPLOYED	an average work force of 217 persons	

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